

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, claims 1, 12, and 16 are amended. Applicant believes that the changes made in the Examiner's Amendment do not accurately reflect the claims. No new matter has been added, and the claims remain allowable. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

*Response to Examiner's Amendment*

Claims 1, 12, and 16 were each amended in three places by Examiner's Amendment. Applicant agrees with the amendments to line 2 of each of claims 1, 12, and 16. However, Applicant disagrees with the amendments made to lines 1 and 3 of claim 1, to lines 1 and 4 of claim 12, and to lines 1 and 3 of claim 16, for the following reasons.

Each of claims 1, 12, and 16 are drawn to "a method of design rule checking." They are not drawn to "a method of a design rule checking." This language is incorrect, in that the inclusion of the word "a" before "design rule checking" changes the language to a grammatically incorrect wording. The original language is perfectly clear and acceptable.

Further, each of claims 1, 12, and 16 (in lines 3 of claims 1 and 16, and line 4 of claim 12) have been amended to properly state "extracting each line having a line width marker." This is correct, and the term "the" is not proper. The clause clearly recites that any line that has a line width marker is extracted. The use of the term "the" would indicate that there is only one line width marker, which is clearly not the case. The original language is proper.

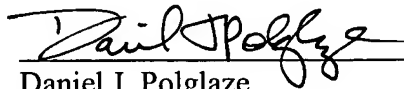
Accordingly, Applicant requests that the amendments to lines 1 and 3 of claims 1 and 16, and the amendments to lines 1 and 4 of claim 12, be removed, and that the amendments shown above, to return the claim language to its original and proper language, be entered.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that the claims remain in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the amendment be entered, and that the application proceeds to issuance with the claims as amended. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2208.

Respectfully submitted,

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